

# ***HEALTH BENEFITS E-NEWS***

*Department of Human Resource  
Management  
Office of Health Benefits*

*November 16, 2018*

## **Medicare-Eligible Retiree Health Benefits Premium Rate Notification**

The Annual Rate Notification for Medicare-Eligible Retiree Group Participants is currently being printed for mailing on Thursday, November 29. Below is the link to the rate notification booklets that will be mailed to plan participants, with separate booklets for those with and those without Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage.

<http://www.dhrm.virginia.gov/healthcoverage/medicareretiree/medicare-rate-notification-2019>

We regret that the booklets were delayed this year and appreciate your patience.

If you have an employee who retires or starts LTD and enrolls in a Medicare-coordinating plan with an effective date before January 1, 2019, that has not yet been keyed or an employee who will retire January 1, 2019, or later, please provide a copy of these materials to explain plan and premium changes for 2019.

Retiree group participants enrolled in plans that include the Express Scripts Medicare Part D (prescription drug) coverage were mailed their Annual Notice of Changes directly from Express Scripts in early October. Those additional materials will be available at the above link as soon as possible.

## **2018 COVA HealthAware Amendment Mailing**

The 2018 amendment to the 2016 COVA HealthAware Member Handbook will be mailed the week of November 19 to COVA HealthAware members at their home addresses. [The 2017 and 2018 amendments, and member handbook](#) are available on the DHRM website.

## **SmartShopper Welcome E-Mail for Distribution to Employees**

As COVA Care and COVA HDHP members receive the [SmartShopper Welcome brochure](#) at their home addresses, we are sending Benefits Administrators a follow-up email to remind employees about the new program. You can open the attached Word document and then copy, paste and forward to employees at your agency. Thank you!

***Please do not reply to this e-mail. You may send inquiries to the Office of Health Benefits mailbox at [ohb@dhrm.virginia.gov](mailto:ohb@dhrm.virginia.gov).***